

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE (USPTO)

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Title of Application	Inventory Management of Virtual Items in Computer Games
First Named Inventor	Nigel S. Keam
Assignee	Microsoft Corporation
Group Art Unit	3714
Examiner	Arthur O. Hall
Attorney Docket Number	MS1-1589US
Nature of the Office Communication to which this is responding	Non-Final Office Action
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Nature of this Document	Response to Non-Final Office Action

To: Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

From: Ningning Xu (Tel. 509-944-4726; Fax 509-323-8979)
Customer No. 22801

Brief Summary of Selected Substantive Portions of this Response

[0001] In an in-person interview at the US Patent and Trademark Office on March 18, 2009, Examiner Hall and the undersigned representative for the Applicant discussed rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 101 and 103, and distinctions between proposed claim amendments and cited references. The undersigned representative described and explained functions with respect to Fig. 4. Examiner Hall and the representative also discussed the proposed claim amendments and other suggested claim amendments that would prospectively overcome the rejections in view of the cited references. The representative

understood Examiner Hall to tentatively concur that proposed amendments appeared to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101, and that the amendments and remarks presented herein would be fully considered and an updated search conducted upon receipt of this formal response. Amendments are presented herein based on the discussion with the Examiner.

[0002] This brief summary is not intended to represent the Applicant's full response to the Action. Rather, it is merely a brief summary of selected substantive portions of the response herein.

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim Amendment Summary

Claims pending

- Before this Amendment: Claims 1-35, 37, 39-41 and 44-47.
- After this Amendment: Claims 1-8, 10, 12, 13, 15-26, 28-35, 37, 39, 41, 44-47.

Non-Elected, Canceled, or Withdrawn claims: Claims 9, 11, 14, 27 and 40.

Amended claims: Claims 1-7, 10, 12, 13, 15-21, 23, 24, 28-33, 35, 37, 39, 41 and 44-47.

New claims: None.